## Appendix A
## StormReady Population-Based Guidelines

Since the tax base typically dictates the resources applied to public programs, the guidelines for successful participation in the StormReady Program are based on population. Four population categories are used for developing appropriate recognition guidelines related to weather disaster preparedness. The population-based categories are:

| **Guidelines** | **Population** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **< 2,500** | **2,500 - 14,999** | **15,000 - 40,000** | **> 40,000** |
| **Guideline 1: Communications** | | | | |
| Established 24 hr Warning Point (WP)* | X* | X* | X | X |
| Established Emergency Operations Center | X* | X* | X | X |
| Ability to relay real-time storm reports to forecast office | X | X | X | X |
| **Guideline 2: NWS Information Reception** | | | | |
| Number of ways for EOC and WP to receive NWS warning, etc (If in range, one *must* be NWR) | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| **Guideline 3: Hydrometeorological Monitoring** | | | | |
| Number of systems to monitor Hydrometeorological data | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Guideline 4: Local Warning Dissemination** | | | | |
| Number of ways for EOC and WP to disseminate warnings | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| NWR - SAME receivers in public facilities | X | X | X | X |
| **Guideline 5: Community Preparedness** | | | | |
| Number of annual weather safety talks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Spotters and dispatchers trained biennially | X | X | X | X |
| Host / co-host annual NWS spotter training | | | | X |
| **Guideline 6: Administrative** | | | | |
| Formal hazardous weather operations plan | X | X | X | X |
| Biennial visits by emergency manager to NWS office | X | X | X | X |
| Annual visits by NWS official to community | X | X | X | X |

* For cities or towns with less than 15,000 people, a 24-hour warning point and EOC are required if; however, another jurisdiction within the county may provide that resource. For smaller communities in Alaska and Pacific Regions with less than 2,500 residents and no county agency to act as a 24 hour warning point, the community must designate responsible persons who are able to receive warnings 24 hours per day and have the authority to activate local warning systems.

***Guideline 1: Communications & Coordination Center***

Effective communication is the key to disaster management. This is especially true in natural hazard emergencies (e.g., flood, wildfire, tsunami) where rapid changes may permit only short lead-time warnings that require an immediate, educated response.

1. 24-Hour Warning Point. To receive recognition under the StormReady Program, an applying agency will need a 24-hour warning point (WP) to receive NWS information and provide local reports and advice. Typically, this is a law enforcement or fire department dispatching point. For cities or towns without a local dispatching point, another jurisdiction within the county may act in that capacity for them.

The warning point will need to have:

- 24-hour operations.
- Warning reception capability.
- Warning dissemination capability.
- Ability and authority to activate local warning system(s).

*Note: For smaller communities in Alaska and Pacific Regions with less than 2,500 residents and no county agency to act as a 24-hour warning point, the community must designate responsible persons who are able to receive warnings 24 hours per day and have the authority to activate local warning systems*.

2. Emergency Operations Center. All agencies must have an emergency operations center (EOC). For towns and cities with less than 15,000 people, the EOC may be provided by another jurisdiction within the county. The EOC will need to be staffed during hazardous weather events and, when staffed, assume the warning point's hazardous weather function.

The following summarizes the weather-related roles of an EOC:

- May assume weather-related duties of warning point, when staffed.
- Activated based on predetermined guidelines related to NWS information and/or weather events.
- Staffed with emergency management director or designee.
- Warning reception capability. (See guideline 2)
- Ability and authority to activate local warning system(s). Must have capabilities equal to or better than the warning point.
- Ability to communicate with adjacent EOCs/Warning Points.
- Established communications link with NWS to relay real-time weather information to support the warning decision making process.

3. Real-Time Storm Reports. An integral part of the warning decision-making process is timely reports of real-time weather information. StormReady communities must relay these reports to the local National Weather Service forecast office. At a minimum, these reports should include the type, location, and time of significant weather events. The extent and tracking of these reports are left to the discretion of the local board.

***Guideline 2: National Weather Service Warning Reception***

Warning points and EOCs each need multiple ways to receive NWS warnings. The StormReady Program guidelines for receiving NWS warnings in an EOC/WP require a combination of the following, based on population:

- NOAA Weather Radio: receiver with tone alert. Specific Area Message Encoding is preferred. *Required for recognition only if within range of transmitter*.
- Emergency Management Weather Information Network (EMWIN) receiver: Satellite feed and/or VHF radio transmission of NWS products.
- Statewide law enforcement telecommunications: Automatic relay of NWS products on law enforcement systems.
- Amateur Radio transceiver: Potential communications directly to NWS office.
- Wireless Devices: From a provider not directly tied to a local system such as EMWIN.
- Television: Local network or cable TV.
- Local Radio: (Emergency Alert System - LP1/LP2).
- National Warning System: (NAWAS) drop: FEMA-controlled civil defense hotline.
- NOAA Weather Wire drop: Satellite downlink data feed from NWS.
- Other: For example, active participation in a state-run warning network.

***Guideline 3: Hydrometeorological Monitoring***

While receipt of warnings is crucial to the success of any EOC or warning point, there should also be a means of monitoring weather information, especially radar data. To obtain StormReady recognition, each EOC/WP (based on population) should have some combination of the following recommended means of gathering weather information:

- Internet
- Television/Cable TV/Radio
- Two-way radio
- Emergency Management Weather Information Network (EMWIN)
- Local systems for monitoring weather

### *Guideline 4: Warning Dissemination*

Once NWS warnings are received, or local information suggests an imminent weather threat, the local emergency officials should communicate with as much of the population as possible. To be recognized as StormReady, a community must have NOAA Weather Radio in the following facilities:

**Required Locations:**

-24-hour warning point

-Emergency operations center

-City Hall

-School superintendent office

**Recommended Locations:**

-Courthouses

-Public libraries

-Hospitals

-All schools

-Fairgrounds

-Parks and recreation areas

-Public utilities

-Sports arenas

-Transportation departments

In addition, recognition will be contingent upon having one or more of the following means (based on population) of ensuring timely warning dissemination to citizens:

- Cable television audio/video overrides.
- Local Flood warning systems with no single point of failure.
- Other locally-controlled methods like a local broadcast system or sirens on emergency vehicles.
- Outdoor warning sirens.
- *Counties Only:* A countywide communications network that ensures the flow of information between all cities and towns within its borders. This would include acting as a warning point for the smaller towns.

### *Guideline 5: Community Preparedness*

Public education is vital in preparing citizens to respond properly to weather threats. An educated public most likely will take steps to receive weather warnings, recognize potentially threatening weather situations, and act appropriately to those situations. Those seeking recognition in the StormReady Program will need to:

- Conduct or facilitate safety talks for schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and industries (number of talks per year will be based on population). These may be a part of multi-hazard presentations affecting local communities/regions (e.g., flood, wildfire, tsunami).
- Accomplish weather-related safety campaigns which include publicity for NOAA Weather Radios where coverage exists. These may be a part of multi hazard presentations affecting local communities/regions (e.g. flood, wildfire, tsunami).

- EOC/Warning point staff and storm spotters will need to attend NWS storm spotter training sessions at least every other year. All jurisdictions larger than 40,000 people will need to host/co-host a spotter training session every year.

***Guideline 6: Administrative***

No program can be successful without formal planning and proactive administration. To be recognized in the StormReady Program:

Approved hazardous weather action plans must be in place. These plans will need to address, at a minimum, the following:

- Hazards/risk assessment.
- Warning-point procedures relating to natural hazards.
- EOC activation criteria and procedures if applicable.
- Storm spotter activation criteria and reporting procedures if applicable.
- Storm spotter roster and training record if applicable.
- Criteria and procedures for activation of sirens, cable television override, and/or local systems activation in accordance with state Emergency Alert System (EAS) plans.
- Annual exercises relating to natural hazard.

To facilitate close working relationships, the community/county emergency management program leader will need to visit the supporting NWS office at least every other year. NWS officials will commit to visit accredited counties, cities, and towns annually to tour EOCs/Warning points and meet with key officials.